

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1224

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 8652

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, PINT, CI

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP ON THE BUDNIK BROTHERS CASE

REF: SANTIAGO 8124 AND PREVIOUS

1. FONMIN NOTE NO. 49 OF AUGUST 26 REFERRED TO THE AMBASSADOR'S JULY 28 REQUEST TO FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL FOR INFORMATION (SANTIAGO 7358) ON THE BUDNIK CASE AND STATED THAT "THE COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITIES" HAD INFORMED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THERE WAS NO RECORD OF ANY DETENTION IN CHILE OF THE BUDNIK BROTHERS. THE NOTE FURTHER SAID THAT THIS DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE BUDNIKS HAD LEFT THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY -- "CARRYING FALSE DOCUMENTS, AS HAS HAPPENED IN NUMEROUS INSTANCES IN THE PAST" -- OR THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY BE ENMESHED IN CLANDESTINE ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY.

2. ALONG THE SAME LINE, A FONMIN OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF EARLIER THAT A GOOD SOURCE IN DINA TOLD HIM THE BUDNIKS HAD NOT BEEN DETAINED BY THE GOC. RATHER, THEY HAD GONE OUT OF CIRCULATION BECAUSE OF SOME FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, BROTHER JULIO AND HIS WIFE (SANTIAGO 7358) CALLED ON AN EMBOFF AUGUST 20 TO EXPRESS THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE EMBASSY'S ROLE IN EFFECTING THE BROTHERS' RETURN.

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THEY REFUSED TO GIVE ANY DETAILS ON THE BROTHERS' SAGE,

JULIO SAYING ONLY THAT WHEN YOU MAKE AN AGREEMENT, YOU MUST ABIDE BY IT.

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE BUDNIKS' BACKGROUND REVEALS THAT EDUARDO IS OR WAS A FAIRLY SENIOR COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBER. PCCH-SYMPATHIZER JULIO OPERATED AS AN INTERVENTOR OF GENERAL TIRE-INSA (HIS WIFE HAD SAID "DIRECTOR" -- PARA SIX, SANTIAGO 7358) DURING ALLENDE DAYS AND REPORTEDLY MADE A GOOD THING FINANCIALLY OUT OF THE INSA CONNECTION.

5. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OBVIOUSLY IS NOT TUNED IN TO THE BUDNIK CASE. IT DID NOT EVEN KNOW THEY HAD RETURNED.

6. MEANWHILE, THE EMBASSY'S BELIEF IN A DEAL IS STRENGTHENED. THE VISITS BY THE JULIO BUDNIKS (THEY MADE A SIMILAR CALL ON THE ISRAELI EMBASSY) APPEARS INTENDED TO ENSURE THAT WE AVOID COMMENT ABOUT THEIR CASE. IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT THE USG SHOULD AVOID FURTHER ACTION OR ANY COMMENT.
POPPER

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